# A FAITH OF MY OWN

*Enduring the Fire, Walking in His Light*

*by Tyler Harris*

# GOOD-MORNING, LORD JESUS

*Psalm 143:8*
*“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.*
*Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”*

A believer reaps the harvest at dawn, and I declare: Good-morning, Lord Jesus.
But I am a sinner — how can morning be good?

It is good.
I have a God to declare to.

Last night I blamed You for betrayal, while eating at the table You set.
The night before, I cursed You for my past, while rejoicing with the saints You sent to save me.

I am a show lamb looking into the eyes of a butcher — how can I say “good-morning?”
How can I be so joyous?

I was born to a family of sinners and nonbelievers.
A boy born into a world that didn’t teach him Spirit.
How can this boy be given brothers to protect?

He has no protector.
Am I wrong to yearn for a Savior?

I am — and You gave Yourself to the cross.
You became my Father long before consecration.

I had no man to teach me to shave, yet my face is bare.
No man to show me how to fix a car, yet my A/C runs cold.
I knew not of Your Word, but lived off Your blessings.

So let he who waters, be watered.
Let he who has given, be given to.

# Takeaways

God meets me in the morning not because I am righteous, but because *He is faithful*. My past, my upbringing, and my lack do not disqualify me—God has been Fathering me long before I knew His name. Gratitude grows when I recognize how many blessings I lived on without noticing. A new day is not earned; it is given. And I rise because He is with me.

# Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for greeting me with love I do not deserve.
Teach me to trust You at dawn and surrender my shame at Your feet.
Let my mornings become altars where I remember who You are—
my Father, my Shepherd, my Savior. ***Amen.***

# YIELDING MY BATTLES TO GOD

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."*

What does the Word say about those who hurt me?
I pray for them.

I am here to be a saint.
To act in God's will.
Yet I am human.

I get conflicted about being chosen for acts of righteousness.
I hurt those who hurt me.
I yell, I snap, I ache.
I doubt, I resent, I sin.

Who am I to be forgiven?
I am a man of failure, and I hold grudges.
Regardless, I commit to my God.

I wake up with purpose.
I knock on God's door with purpose.
I pray for my brothers and sisters.

But what does the Word say about those who hurt me?

The veil is more than just ignorance to Your love.
It shields our eyes from those who love us.

It’s a black sheet made darker by the enemy who brings us down.

I praise Your name to oppose those who bring me down.
Can I save the ones who hurt me?

I pray that through my pen and paper You can speak.
You do not ask me to carry the weight of Your inevitable justice,
so I carry the weight of Your love —
yielding the battle to You.

My wrists burn and tremble with the Spirit in my veins and joints,
and it hurts me.

What does the Word say about those who hurt me?

# Takeaways

I cannot carry the weight of justice—God never asked me to. My emotions don’t disqualify me; they remind me that I must lean on Him, not myself. Forgiveness is not a sign of weakness but a sign of surrender. God fights the battles I cannot see, so I carry only the weight of His love.

# Prayer

Father, teach me to let go of the fights that are not mine.
Free me from bitterness, from vengeance, from the need to be right.
Strengthen me to love those who wound me,
and remind me that You are the One who fights for me. ***Amen.***

# REFLECTIONS OF THE DIVINE

*Acts 3:16*

*“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.”*

I exist in a fascinating world, where Spirit can turn a cold day into a warm beginning.
I praise the name of a man who let the blind see, who fed many with so little,
who let the paralyzed walk.
What about You is not enchanting?

Matthew said the winds and waves obeyed You.
You walked above the water — only to serve those who had faith.
In Acts, they healed with Your name.

You declared James and John the *Sons of Thunder.*
Barnabas, *Son of Encouragement.*
Peter, *the Rock.*
Simon, *the Zealot.*

How easy it is to be encouraged by a God so in touch with His people.
I am inspired by Your relationship with Your disciples —
each one personal, never growing distant.

Your imagery turned strength to weakness,
weakness to strength.

A refiner of silver knows his work is done
when he sees himself in the reflection of metal.
I am the silver You refine,
until You see Your reflection in me.

## Takeaways

Jesus is not distant—He draws close, speaks personally, and makes Himself known. Faith transforms the ordinary into the miraculous. God shapes me like silver until His reflection shines through my life. Strength is not earned; it is refined.

## Prayer

Lord, refine me until Your character is what others see.

Shape my heart like silver in Your hands.

Let my life reflect Your gentleness, Your strength,

and the intimacy You showed Your disciples. ***Amen.***

# TRIAL

## *2 Timothy 3:12*

## *“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*

My clothes are set ablaze and I double over in agony.
I am thrown to the ground, beaten, and bruised — all for accepting Your love.

I believe I have the secret to eternal happiness;
why am I shamed for sharing it?

I feel the sharpness in their words, their dislike in their scoffs.

They hurl harsh names at me,each one piercing within me another hole
I will ask You to fill.

Despite their resentment,
I beg You for their forgiveness — because that is what You taught me.

I will bridge the gap between those who reject You.
I ask You to bless those who resent me.

Their bruises are minuscule in the span of Your mercy.
They are shocked at my expression — how am I still able to smile?

I am infatuated with You.
The world finds me strange for smiling in the face of persecution.
I find it silly — why are you terrified of a God who loves you so much?

They count on You to get them home, to wake them in the morning,

to draw breath into their lungs — but refuse to acknowledge You.

You reassure me that this is the cost of following my Lord. Suffering is the first sign of belonging.

I feel Your warm hand on my shoulder: “Endure.”

My clothes are set ablaze — I am warm. I am purified in the Lord.
I am strengthened by my God.

If it is within these flames I find You, let them scorch the Earth.

If it is within these shackles I break and become Yours, break me into a thousand pieces.

It is You who walked into death for me —
so I will walk through the fire for You.

# Takeaways

Persecution is not a sign of abandonment—it is evidence that I belong to Christ. Suffering exposes the depth of my faith and the greatness of His mercy. Loving those who harm me reveals the heart of Jesus. Fire does not destroy me when God is in it —it purifies me.

# Prayer

Jesus, give me courage in the fire.
Help me endure the mockery, the doubt, the weight of opposition.
Fill the holes left by others’ words, and remind me that suffering for You is a privilege.
Make me faithful, even in flames. ***Amen.***

# THE STRENGTH I'M CALLED INTO

*Joshua 1:9*

*"Have I not commanded you?*
*Be strong and courageous.*
*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,*
*for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

David lifts his head to lock eyes with a giant.
There is no room in his heart for fear;
He is full of courage given from the Lord.

I fear that I am not a man who can sit at the head of a table,
or teach a boy to be a man.

Yet You teach me to lift my head the same —
but instead of looking at Goliath,
I look into the sky at You.

You challenge me to be better
by letting me fail and return to You,
begging for a chance to try again.

That is what it means to be a man.

A strong spirit is one that gets up
instead of slumping over.

A man is not a brute,
not a drunk,
not a user.

A man is a soul who gets kicked, doubted, and tried —
only to smile and thank Jesus for another day.

Can I be the man that God has asked me to be?

To pick up those around you,
no matter how heavy the weight you must bear —
that is godly strength.

Joshua conquered Jericho
and led the people to the Promised Land.
He led armies and won wars.
His manhood derives not from the need to impress
but from obedience to God.

Daniel had a man's heart.
He had integrity,
and prayed no matter the oppression he faced.

The Word teaches me to protect,
to sacrifice,
to stay true to my Father and His righteousness.
That is what it means to be a man.

# Takeaways

Godly strength is obedience, not dominance. A real man is formed through trials, failures, and returning to God again. Courage comes not from self-confidence, but from God's presence. True masculinity is sacrifice, integrity, and quiet faithfulness.

# Prayer

Father, strengthen me to be the man You are calling me to be.
Give me courage like David and integrity like Daniel.
Teach me to protect, to uplift, and to lead with humility.
Let my manhood be rooted not in pride, but in obedience to You. ***Amen.***

# HUMBLED BEFORE GRACE

*Proverbs 16:18*

*“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”*

I feel the constant need to prove myself. To prove I’m a good Christian, a good man, a good son.

I ask you for signs that support my own ambitions, how selfish of me.

It is a battle within itself, a veil I try to tear off of myself.

My value is measured in accomplishments, all by my own doing. You tell me how much you love me, whether my head is low or I am smiling.

You see my heart. Teach me to kneel before you. Lord Jesus you served the poorest men, and put it all aside.

Who am I to look down upon them?

Teach me to bow, let my ego crumble at your grace. Measure my success not by how I shine, but by how I pick up the chin of my brother.

I see the significance in being small before you. To surrender control to your plan.

I choke down the desire to be noticed, to be known.

I rest in your grace, not my striving.

## Takeaways

Pride convinces me to prove myself; grace reminds me I am already loved. God sees my heart long before He sees my

accomplishments. Humility is not weakness—it is alignment with God's will. My worth is not in being noticed by others but in being known by Him.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, break the pride that blinds me.
Teach me to kneel, to listen, to surrender.
Let my confidence come from Your love, not my image.
Make me humble, gentle, and secure in Your grace. ***Amen.***

# CALLED TO MORE

*Ephesians 2:10*

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

I am a man made in God’s image. I am called to do great things.

There are times where I wonder where this path is leading, if the life I live, the days I count, the breaths I take—are they fulfilling the purpose You placed within me?

I am not here by accident. You task me to love, to grow, and to teach others of your blessings.

You ask me to lift up the head of others, and act beyond my comfort. I am fulfilled simply by acting in your will, and thriving in your purpose.

You are building a foundation within me, and each quiet moment that I celebrate you places another brick.

I falter, and you do not let go.

I can not see where I am going, yet I trust you fully. In fact I step further.

Teach me to live boldly.

I embrace your calling with no fear, no hesitation.

In doing more of you, I become more of me.

I am called to do more.

## Takeaway

I am not here by accident. God designed me with intention, crafted me with purpose, and called me to walk boldly in His will. Each quiet act of obedience, each moment of trust, each step forward becomes part of the foundation He is building within me. My calling is not defined by fear or uncertainty, but by the God who goes before me.

# Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Teach me to walk in the purpose You prepared for me long before I ever took my first breath. Remove my fear, my hesitation, and every doubt that keeps me small. Strengthen my spirit so I may step boldly into the good works You have planned. Shape my heart to love, to lift others, and to live fully in Your will.
Help me become more like You, so I can become more fully who You created me to be. ***Amen.***

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